

January 14, 1996
For Insights:

1. Welcome to our brothers from Peru

We welcome Professor Hector La Porta and students Ephrain Llanco and Johnny Llerena from our sister church in Peru. Hector will teach a class, "Nature and Mission of the Church" for 6 weeks at the Divinity School with Mark. Ephrain and Johnny will be studying for the entire semester at the Divinity School. Ephrain is from Huancayo, Peru, in the mountains. His father is an ordained Methodist minister who serves as the chaplain in the Methodist High School there. Johnny is a lay preacher from Lima who is a broadcast journalist. Both attend the seminary in Lima.

We are thankful for the church's response to the needs of furnishing the apartment for the students, particularly to the Bilski and Rodenhizer families. If you have a television which you are willing to loan for the semester, please call the church office and leave a message.


2. New Altar Guild Leadership Announced

The Altar Guild is pleased to announce that Sarah McCracken and Minnie Mae Franklin will share the responsibility of chair for 1996. We are grateful for the willingness of these two experienced members to lead it.

The Altar Guild is responsible for preparing the sanctuary for worship each Sunday. The "team" of three or four "Altar Guild Workers" serves for one month of the year, performing a variety of duties from replenishing the pew pads to preparing the acolytes and crucifers for their duties. The time commitment for service is minimal: about two hours a week for four or five weeks of the year, working with other committed members of our church community.

The Altar Guild invites all those youth and adults who are interested in learning more about our duties or who would like to join us to call the church office or leave a note in the Altar Guild box in the office.

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3. A Time to Pause...

Worship begins with our gathering in the sanctuary, a time when we come together as the the body of Christ from our various places "in the world." After the greeting and at the beginning of the opening voluntary, the cross and lights are brought into the sanctuary, signifying the presence of God. This is a time of focusing toward God's presence, away from activity and conversation.

During the procession of the cross and the candles, all movement stops: if we are not yet seated, we wait for the acolytes and crucifer to complete their task and after they are seated, we may be seated quietly. Worshipers in the aisles or near the rail, walking to their seats, are distracting to those who are bringing in the cross and lights and to those seated. The ushers will continue to close the doors during this part of the service. Please honor the closed doors and pause where you are to wait for this act of worship to be completed before moving in the sanctuary.

-Para Drake,

Altar Guild Member